

INDIANA SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY BOARD MEETING

Indiana Government Center - South

Conference Room 12

2:00 p.m.

302 W. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

4-16-2014

**Members present:**

Allen, Mary (CJI)

Bowlen, Eric (Martinsville)

Carter, Doug (ISP)

Hill, John (IDHS) (Chairman)

Reske, Scott (DOE)

**Members absent:**

Eslinger, Mike (Parke County)

Zoeller, Greg (ATG Office)

**Proxy:**

McDowell, Kevin (ATG Office)

**Staff:**

Davis, Bridget (IDHS)

Karns, Allison (IDHS)

Mahan, Beth (IDHS)

Romero, Joe (IDHS)

Stewart, Kimberly (IDHS)

Workman, James (LT. Gov. Office)

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairman Hill who welcomed everyone. It was determined that there was a quorum. Staff introductions were made. No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Motion duly made and carried to adopt the minutes from October 23, 2013:

Proposed by: Eric Bowlen

Seconded by: Scott Reske

Vote: carried

### **Old Business**

- The grant fund balance for the grant money issued during 2013-2014 fiscal year is approximately \$995,000.00, about 9.5 % available from the prior fiscal year. The goal is to award all of the money at the end of the process.

2. Motion to amend the September 16, 2013 minutes:

**Move to amend the minutes from the September 16, 2013 meeting to include the board vote to delegate grant review to staff.**

Motion duly made and carried to amend the minutes from September 16, 2013.

Proposed by: Scott Reske

Seconded by: Doug Carter

Vote: carried

### **New Business**

#### **Grant Review Process**

- Kevin McDowell voiced a concern that disclosing the grant reviewers' names on each individual school application would be problematic. Mr. McDowell expressed that he considered this information deliberate and an exception to the Access to Public Records Act (APRA). Allison Karns disagreed with Mr. McDowell's interpretation. Chairman Hill advised them to discuss after the meeting.
- Mr. McDowell and Mr. Reske voiced that they considered the school safety plans to be an exception to APRA. Ms. Karns agreed.
- Mary Allen suggested that the scores be averaged if there is more than one reviewer. Ms. Karns also recommended that the scores be averaged by the review committee. There were five reviewers, one from each agency. Each agency scores every grant application.
- Chairman Hill recommended that the concerns be worked through for the May 2014 Board Meeting.
- Kimberly Stewart stated that the electronic reviews would begin.

#### **Grant Extensions**

- Ms. Stewart has been receiving inquiries from schools about whether or not to extend the grant funding beyond June 30, 2015.
- Chairman Hill stated that we are going to award all grants before June 30, 2015, however if a school corporation anticipates that they will not get the money spent by June 30,

2015, the school will still be allowed to extend the time needed to spend the money upon request and IDHS staff will amend the grant for that particular school system.

### **Grant Amendments**

- Some schools have requested to amend their proposals for which they originally submitted their grant applications for and want to spend their awarded grant money on another qualifying purpose.
- Chairman Hill suggested the Board delegate the ability to review and approve these amended proposals.

#### **3. Motion to amend grant applications:**

**Move to authorize Chairman Hill to approve changes to grants that have been previously approved by the Board, with a report of any such changes to be provided to the Board at each meeting.**

Motion duly made and carried to approve changes to grant applications that have been approved by the Board:

Proposed by: Doug Carter

Seconded by: Eric Bowlen

Vote: carried

- Ms. Allen would like for any School Resource Officer (SRO) updates to be provided as the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) funds SRO programs and the updates would be beneficial for CJI to know if money needs to be moved over from a school safety equipment fund to a SRO fund in order to complement the impact of what the Indiana Secured School Safety Board does.

### **Appeals Process**

- If a school is denied a grant, they may go through the appeals process. IDHS will ensure the process is fully explained in the grant application and that applicants are provided with their right to an administrative review.

### **Updates**

- Mr. Reske advised that Senate Bill 344 created a new division of the Department of Education during the 2014 Legislative Session. The bill expanded the eligibility for this grant to allow cooperative career and technical education centers to be eligible to apply for this grant. The bill does not include cooperative career and technical education centers which are fully contained within a school corporation, they would be considered as any other eligible school corporation would be treated. The cooperative career and technical education centers that serve multiple school corporations would be eligible for this grant. IDHS has received only three grant requests from a possible 35 of these entities that were eligible to apply. The funding they qualify for is based on their average daily membership (ADM). Cooperative education centers do not have an ADM because their students are counted by their local school cooperation. IDHS has told schools that they must report how many students they serve and the number given must meet the limits set by the law. If the school serves over a thousand students they may ask for fifty thousand dollars. If the school serves under a thousand students they may ask for thirty-five thousand dollars.

- The initial training for SROs is now eligible for funding. Training of a SRO prior to grant award is not eligible. A lot of work has been done during the legislative session regarding the SRO training and who may provide that training has been clarified in statute.
- The review committee decided that the expenses of an SRO shall remain limited to salary and benefits. The Board agreed that uniforms, cars or weapon expenses of SROs are not to be funded by the grant. The SRO must be an employee of the local law enforcement agency, a special deputy or a school corporation police officer. The salary difference between a part-time and a full-time SRO may be funded by the grant.
- SRO issues included training, finding qualified people and the unknown future of the grant. Schools continue to ask for school safety equipment because of the uncertainty of the grant's sustainability and their concern about long-term salary commitments to SROs.
- IDHS intends to get the grant awards out by July 1, 2014, allowing schools to make security changes during summer vacation.
- The final approval of the grants will take place during the week of May 26, 2014, following the technical review committee's vetting of grant applications.

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Hill adjourn the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

**Next Meeting Time and Location:**

May 27, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Indiana Government Center-South, Conference Room 1